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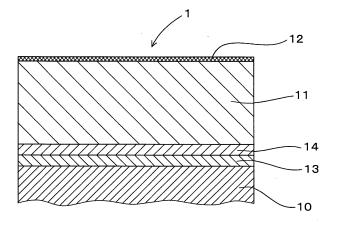
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(54) Coating structure and method for forming the same

(57) A coating structure (1, E) for a metal member (10) includes a surface-smoothing layer (11, 13, 14) formed on the metal member (10) for smoothing a surface of the metal member (10), and a fluorine-based film (12) formed on the surface-smoothing layer (11, 13, 14). The

fluorine-based film (12) can be formed by applying a fluorine-containing solution (120) on the surface-smoothing layer (11, 13, 14), and by drying the fluorine-containing solution (120). The coating structure (1, E) can be suitably used for a fuel injection nozzle (7).

FIG. 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES
The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.
Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.
LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:
see sheet B
All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:



LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION SHEET B

Application Number

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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-42

Coating structure and method for forming the same

2. claims: 43-49

A fuel injection nozzle compring the needle coated with a coatin structure including a surface-smoothing layer and a fluorine-based film formed thereon

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

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